



2016 Astronomy Festival Schedule

Thursday, September 29

12:00 – 4:00: Solar viewing, solar bracelet making, various fun activities

Come learn about the sun, observe it safely, and take home your own glow-in-the-sun bracelet.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

3:00: Ranger Program: How to Use a Planisphere

Join Ranger Steve to learn the basics of observing the night sky using an important tool, a planisphere.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

6:30: Ranger Talent Show

Come to one of our most popular events, featuring the numerous talents of the Great Basin National Park Staff, as (sometimes distantly!) related to the stars.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

8:00 – 12:00: Star party/observing

Enjoy an opportunity to view planets, galaxies, nebulae, star clusters, and other objects through the many telescopes our dedicated volunteers will provide.

Picnic area

8:00: Kid's program: Deep Sky Certificates

Join the hunt to find certain objects many light years away from us. When you finish, you'll get a personalized certificate and a candy bar!

Picnic area

8:30: Constellation tour

Join a dark ranger to learn some of the stories in the sky.

Picnic area



2016 Astronomy Festival Schedule

Friday, September 30

12:00 – 4:00: Solar viewing, solar bracelet making, various fun activities

Come learn about the sun, observe it safely, and take home your own glow-in-the-sun bracelet.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

12:00: Great Basin for Kids: The Moon

Learn about Earth's one and only lunar neighbor in an activity especially for kids.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

2:00: Ranger Program: Astronomy 101

Join a Dark Ranger to learn some of the basics of one of our favorite subjects.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

3:00: Ranger Program: How to Use a Planisphere

Join Ranger Steve to learn the basics of observing the night sky using an important tool, a planisphere.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

6:30: Keynote Speaker: Dr. Anil Seth: The Andromeda Galaxy, Our Nearest Neighbor

Andromeda is the most distant object you can see with your naked eye, and a twin galaxy to our own Milky Way. As our nearest big neighbor, astronomers study Andromeda to understand how stars and galaxies form. Recently, the Hubble Space Telescope created an amazing 6 billion pixel image of Andromeda. In his talk, Dr. Seth will highlight what we've learned from this data, and showcase the most beautiful parts of the galaxy.

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Picnic area



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8:00: Kid's Program: Deep Sky Certificates

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Picnic area

8:30: Constellation tour

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Picnic area

Saturday, October 1

6:00 – 7:30: Equinox Sunrise Walk: The Fremont Indian Culture

Stroll with Ranger Steve to the Baker Archaeological Site, and watch the just-past equinox sunrise. Learn of the Fremont culture and the importance of the celestial sphere to them.

Baker Archaeological Site

12:00 – 4:00: Solar viewing, solar bracelet making, various fun activities

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Lehman Caves Visitor Center

12:00: Ranger Program: Astronomy 101

Join a Dark Ranger to learn some of the basics of one of our favorite subjects.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

1:00: Night photography workshop

Ranger Zach is visiting us from Cedar Breaks National Monument to share his knowledge of photographing the night sky. This workshop is aimed at beginners, no experience is necessary. Participants must sign up in advance.

Great Basin Visitor Center classroom



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2:00: Kid's Program: Space Jingle!

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

3:00: Ranger Program: How to Use a Planisphere

Join Ranger Steve to learn the basics of observing the night sky using an important tool, a planisphere.

6:30: An Evening With Great Basin's Bat Biologists

Great Basin Institute Bat Biologist Dylan Rhea-Fournier will give a brief general background on bats and their ecology, and then describe the bat species we have in the park and the research conducted here on them, followed by some of the current threats these nocturnal animals face.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

8:00 – 12:00: Star party/observing

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Picnic area

8:00: Kid's program – Deep Sky Certificates

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Picnic area

8:30: Constellation tour

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Picnic area



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Most events take place at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center.

Observing will take place in the picnic area. To get to the picnic area, follow NV 488 all the way to the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. You can park there and follow the signs to the right for the picnic area. The picnic area will be closed to cars for the entire festival.

When walking to the picnic area for observing, follow the white lights on the ground to the red lights. Please do not use any light color other than red from this point on. If you have a flashlight you want to use, ask a ranger for red tape. This will preserve everyone's night vision.



